

S.S. "COMPETITOR"

This vessel is 18 years old.

The Main Boilers were examined at Cardiff in February last. Some repairs were carried out and the boilers were tested by hydraulic pressure and found tight and satisfactory. The Surveyors recommended the vessel for the record of MBS 2,25 which was assigned.

The Vessel subsequently sailed for Santos and from thence to Durban.

The Durban Surveyor was called in on October 26th 1925 in consequence of a leak in the centre furnace of the Port Boiler found when raising steam.

After further examination of both main boilers the Surveyors recommended extensive repairs. To this the Owners took exception and a cablegram was sent to the Surveyor asking whether temporary repairs were practicable to enable the vessel to proceed home.

The Surveyor however cabled that both boilers were generally defective and that temporary repairs were not practicable.

The extensive repairs were subsequently carried out and the boilers tested by hydraulic pressure and found tight and satisfactory. The Surveyor recommended however that these repairs and the boilers generally should be examined on the vessel's return home.

The Surveyor also reported that the vessel grounded on the inner harbour of the Port, the vessel was examined afloat and by a diver, tanks and bilges were sounded and no leakage found.

He recommended that the vessel be further examined in Dry Dock on her arrival at a Home Port.

The vessel proceeded to sea and according to Lloyd's List and S.O.S. was received from her at midnight on November 28th at Port Elizabeth during a terrific storm.

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She was subsequently abandoned in a sinking condition .  
Six of the crew landed in one of the lifeboats at the mouth of  
the Bushman's River and apparently the remainder were lost.

The Clerk to Lloyd's Committee has now forwarded  
confidentially a copy of a letter which he had received from  
the Navigation and General Insurance Co. Ltd. as follows:-

"The Chief Engineer of the "Competitor" which was lost  
recently on the South African Coast, was one of our Policy  
Holders, insuring his Certificate with us.

"We have been asked by the Widow to watch her interests  
relative to a Workmen's Compensation Claim.

"In the course of correspondence with her, we received a  
copy of his last letter. We think that this information should  
be in the possession of the Committee of Lloyd's, and we are  
informed that the following is an exact copy of an extract  
from his letter (as Written).

"Just before leaving Santos, or I should the time we  
had to leave there there was a serious breakdown in one of the  
boilers it was so serious I had to call in Lloyd's Surveyor,  
with the result we are still here. If we had got away the ship  
would have been lost with all hands in less than 48 hours, and  
he said all our lives had been in danger since leaving Cardiff.  
Of course I didn't know were so bad until we opened them out  
here. I am enclosing a card (photo) which I want you to keep  
until I come home if I ever get home.".....

"We have considered it our duty to communicate this  
information to the Mercantile Marine Department of the Board  
of Trade, and think at the same time it should also be in the  
possession of your Committee. "

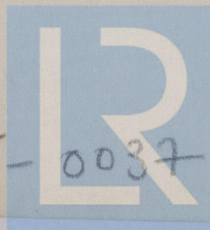
There is no report in this Office from Santos regarding  
the repairs carried out to one of the Boilers there, and as the  
Boilers were examined and repaired subsequently at Durban, this  
matter does not arise in connexion with the loss of the Ship.



A. R. K.

7.1.26.

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